

Remarks

Applicants are making with this amendment changes at page 9 of the specification to improve the readability of paragraphs 3 and 4, which describe the relationship between shift progression and shift time.

Claims 3, 5, 7-20, 22, 23 and 29-37 are indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 29, one of the allowable claims, has been combined with claim 1, which is the base claim. This, in effect, results in a rewriting of claim 29 although the rewritten claim is identified as claim 1 in this paper. Amended claim 1 now is in the group of claims that are indicated to be allowable.

The claims that are dependent on allowable claim 1 are claims 2-23. Of this group of dependent claims that are dependent on claim 1, claims 3, 5, 7-20, 22 and 23 already have been indicated to be allowable. They still are allowable, especially in view of the additional limitations that have been added to base claim 1. As indicated previously, those additional limitations are included in claim 29. Claim 29 now has been cancelled.

Amended claim 1 and all of the claims that are dependent from claim 1 recite an adaptive control method for a power-off downshift.

Claim 30, which is one of the claims that have been indicated to be allowable, recites a control method for a power-on downshift. Claim 30 is dependent on base claim 24. The limitations in claim 30 have been added by this amendment to claim 24. This, in effect, is a rewriting of claim 30. Thus, claim 24 now should be grouped with the claims that have been indicated to be allowable. The claims that are dependent from claim 24, which is a base claim, are claims 25-28, 31-33 and 35-37. Claim 30 now is being cancelled since it is combined with claim 24. Claim 34 also is being cancelled to avoid redundancy with respect to rewritten claim 24.

Claim 37 has been amended to make it dependent on claim 28 rather than claim 34. This avoids a possible indefiniteness since claim 34, and claim 24 from which it depends, do not recite "initial slip time".

Claims 25-28, 31-33 and 35-37 now should be included in the group of allowable claims. Claims 31-37 already have been deemed to be allowable even without the additional limitations from claim 30 that have been added to base claim 24.

The limitations in claim 29 that have been added to claim 1 recite the execution of a predetermined order of priority for adjusting the shift characteristics on a power-off downshift. The limitations in claim 30 that have been added to claim 24 also recite a predetermined order of priority for adjusting the shift characteristics during a power-on downshift.

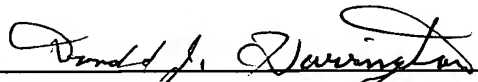
Neither the reference patent to Malson nor the reference patent to Hubbard disclose a control system that executes the steps of adjusting shift characteristics in a predetermined order of priority. Further, both of these references disclose methods for controlling power-on downshifts, but they do not disclose control methods for power-off downshifts. But, regardless of this latter distinction, Applicants' claims are patentably distinct from the control methods defined in the references as the claims now appear in the present application for the reasons previously indicated.

Applicants have amended rewritten claim 1 to include the adjective "adaptive" in order to make the term "adaptive shift characteristics" agree with the antecedent in the first and second paragraphs of amended claim 1.

The present amendment places all of the claims now appearing in the application in allowable form. The issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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